

The Weather

Today — Rain, high in upper 70s, low in mid 60s. Chance of rain is 60 per cent today, 50 per cent tonight. Friday—Rain, high in upper 70s. Yesterday—3 p.m. Air Index, 9; Temp. range: 71-63. Details on B8.

The Washington

98th Year No. 294

© 1975, The Washington Post Co.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER

Moore May Have Gotten Gun

By Stephen D. Isaacs
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 24—Sara Jane Moore, accused of shooting at President Ford Monday, was actively involved with law enforcement authorities investigating possible illegal gun sales in this area and the gun she fired may have been acquired in connection with this role, it was learned today.

Moore was providing information regularly to the San Francisco Police Department, the FBI and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau of the Treasury Department.

The FBI has claimed that it stopped using Moore as an informer in June. Moore, 45, reportedly was buying

firearms and relaying information about the purchases to the San Francisco police, sources said.

She bought two guns from Mark Fernwood in nearby Danville where she used to live. When she bought a .44-caliber Charter Arms pistol three weeks ago, Fernwood said, she also admired a 38-caliber Smith & Wesson that he had.

Police took the .44-caliber pistol from Moore Sunday and she returned Monday to Fernwood to buy the Smith & Wesson, the gun which she is accused of firing at President Ford.

Neither the San Francisco police nor the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms officials would confirm that they were paying Moore for her help but she ap-

parently has no other means of support.

Chief of Detectives Charles Barca did confirm, however, that Moore was an active informer for the San Francisco Police Department.

The notification to the Secret Service that Moore might be a security problem for President Ford's visit came from Sgt. Jack O'Shea.

O'Shea was one of Moore's two regular contacts within a special six-member detail of the police department here that is investigating illegal gun trafficking, according to Barca.

That investigation is being conducted jointly with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau.

Lt. Ray White, head of the Sex

ton Post

Index

6 Sections

Amusements	E13	Food	F 1
Classified	D 3	Metro	B 1
Editorials	A18	Obituaries	B12
Fed. Diary	B15	Sports	C 1
Comics	B14	Style	E 1
Financial	C13	TV-Radio	E16

Inside: The Weekly

25, 1975 Phone (202) 223-6000

Classified 223-6300
Circulation 223-6100

Higher beyond Metropolitan area
See Box A2

15c

in Police Probe

Crimes and Missing Persons Unit, of which O'Shea's detail is a part, told a reporter today that the investigation has been under way for six months and that "Sara Jane is a key figure, but not the suspect in the case."

Three weeks ago, Moore bought the .44-caliber pistol and some ammunition for \$125 from Fernwood, 26, a gun collector.

Fernwood adamantly denied today that he was dealing in illegal guns, saying: "As far as I know, I've never been a suspect of anything before."

He said that he is a collector whose principal business is the manufacture and sale of kits of replicas of 19th Century guns.

"I'm a legal collector" he said. "It's a

hobby. I don't have any connection with illegal weapons.

"I'm strongly opposed to communism, socialism or left-wing organizations. I don't want to make any statement about any organization I'm a member of." He did not explain further.

He then added: "I'm a strong believer in basic American and constitutional government. Today our Constitution is constantly being ignored, unfortunately. He describes his political views as "the traditional views of a conservative."

Moore's purchase of the .44-caliber pistol three weeks ago was well-known to her police contact, O'Shea, but she

See INFORMER, A12, Col. 1



MARK FERNWOOD
... sold Moore two pistols

Moore May Have Gotten

INFORMER, From A1

had not bought it in connection with her work.

O'Shea used her possession of it to have her detained for several hours on Sunday when President Ford was scheduled to address an audience at nearby Stanford University. O'Shea was worried, Barca has said, because Moore had indicated she might go to Stanford "to test the system."

O'Shea, who did not return Washington Post reporters' calls today, told local reporters that when Moore made that statement he alerted the Secret Service and the FBI.

On Sunday, Barca said, O'Shea continued to be worried about Moore's statement.

At 12:30 p.m., he called the Secret Service "and asked them whether they wanted him to pick her up. They said, 'Yes.' He asked on what charges, and they suggested that maybe she had some outstanding traffic warrants they could arrest her on.

"He said, 'No,' she didn't but we could pick her up on something. Well, I'd better not say that. He said, 'She may have a gun in her possession.' He knew she carried a gun for self-protection," Barca said.

At about that same time, according to Fernwood's account, Moore and "Chuck," who had accompanied Moore Sunday, had just left his house in Danville. Moore—without "Chuck" and accompanied by her 9-year-old son and a female friend—then went to visit a couple Moore knew in Danville. At one point Moore left alone to go and see Fernwood.

When she returned half an hour later, the woman said, Moore told her that she had visited Fernwood "with a friend. He wanted to buy a gun, too."

San Francisco police deny that the man, "Chuck," was one of their men.

The Danville couple said that Moore, her son and the woman friend stayed for several hours.

Meanwhile, O'Shea alerted his supervisor, Lt. White, to the fact that Moore was still not locked up and still had a gun. White told O'Shea to call the Mission District police station, 10 blocks from Moore's house, and have officers stake out her house and arrest her.

At 2:30, Barca says, Moore drove up and an officer "asked her, 'Do you have a gun?' and she said 'Yes, it's in my purse' and handed it to them."

They took her to the Mission station, confiscating the .44 caliber gun and ammunition and issuing her a citation. They released her at 4 p.m., too late for her to attend President Ford's speech at Stanford.

Immediately thereafter, says Barca, she telephoned O'Shea at home from a nearby public phone and said, "You did this to me. You got me arrested so I couldn't go down to Stanford."

At 9:45 that night, sources said, a Secret Service agent called Moore to ask if she would be willing to come to the federal building in downtown San Francisco to talk with agents. She said she was, and the agents sent a car to pick her up.

At 10:15 they began interviewing her, and found her somewhat uncooperative. They offered to call O'Shea, her local police contact and let her talk to him in hopes that might make her more cooperative.

O'Shea told local reporters that the Secret Service called him at about 11 p.m. and put her on the phone. He is reported to have quoted her as saying, "I guess I'm in a fine kettle of fish."

O'Shea said he told Moore to "tell them what you told me and you'll be alright."

He also reportedly said that the Secret Service again called him later

to ask for more information about Moore and "I just told them again what I knew about her."

O'Shea's superior, White, adamantly denied reports that what O'Shea told the Secret Service was in effect vouching for her at the same time," he asked.

Fernwood says that at 11 a.m. Monday, Moore came to his house again and brought the .38 and some ammunition, giving him a check, drawn on San Francisco's Crocker National Bank, for \$145 in payment. He says the police now have that check.

She was alone, Fernwood says, and was there for 15 minutes.

Barca said this evening that by 11:30 a.m. Monday, Moore's Toyota was parked in a lot at Union Square, where four hours later she allegedly shot at the President as he left the St. Francis Hotel to get into his car.

Barca said that the police had nothing to do with the purchase three weeks ago of the .44 caliber gun, confiscated on Sunday.

"She came to us," he said, "and said, 'This guy's dealing. I'll set it up for you,' or words to that effect."

Asked if the man accompanying her to Fernwood's on Sunday was a policeman, Barca said, "I have no comment. I will tell you that she purchased the .44 on her own."

Asked if she purchased the .38 for the police, he said that "we never knew she went back there Monday morning." He and White both said that the department was aware that she went there on Sunday.

"Possibly," Barca said, "she was trying to help us, to set this guy up."

Earlier today, Barca at first tried to deny knowing anything about Moore's activities in Danville on Sunday and, when told The Washington Post knew about two visits there, he said, "Well I just tried to get away with a little lie."

Gun as Police Informant



United Press International

Suspect Sara Jane Moore, right, is brought into federal court for arraignment Tuesday by U.S. marshals.